Equipment fitted on boats returned by Pakistan

†*410. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Government of Pakistan has recently returned 280 fishermen and 40 Indian boats that were-seized from Indian region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also aware that the equipment worth lakhs of rupees fitted in these boats are missing;

(d) if so, whether Government have requested Pakistan to return the equipment; and

(e) if so, their reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a)

Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan released 280 Indian fishermen and 44 boats on February 24, 2003.

(c) Government of Gujarat has conveyed that till 4.4.2003 it had not received any representation/complaints in this regard.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Violation of Labour Laws

*411. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some companies are openly violating labour laws and the conditions of labourers/workers are very critical;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of Members of Parliament have submitted representations to his Ministry regarding stringent action against those companies which are functioning in New Delhi, if so, how many representations have been received since March, 2003, till date;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.